

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of informing a user of an imaging apparatus of an event, said imaging apparatus having a plurality of print modes, said method comprising the steps of:

- 5       *defining a notice threshold that is associated with said event;*  
      determining whether said notice threshold has been reached; and  
      upon reaching said notice threshold, progressively reducing an image density of an image formed by said imaging apparatus based on a print mode said imaging apparatus was operating in when said notice threshold was reached.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a respective number of print swaths for each of said plurality of print modes at which a next print density of a plurality of print densities will be selected to facilitate said progressively reducing step.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said event is a depletion of a usable supply of imaging substance available to said imaging apparatus.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said imaging apparatus is an ink jet printer, said notice threshold is one of a plurality of thresholds, each of said plurality of thresholds having associated therewith a respective corresponding amount of ink remaining.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a plurality of print densities for use in progressively reducing sad image density of said image.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said imaging apparatus is an ink jet printer, said method further comprising the step of defining a respective number of print swaths for each of said plurality of print modes at which a next print density of said plurality of print densities will be selected.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said respective number of print swaths increases with an increase of printing resolution of said plurality of print modes.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein a number of print swaths for a first print mode having a first print resolution is less than a number of print swaths for a second printing mode having a second print resolution higher than said first print resolution.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of progressively reducing an image density is achieved relatively uniformly for each of a first print mode and a second print mode.

10. An imaging apparatus having a plurality of print modes selectable by a user, comprising:

a print engine;

a memory that stores a notice threshold associated with an event; and

5 a control system coupled to said print engine and coupled to said memory, said control system being configured to perform the steps of:

determining whether said notice threshold has been reached; and

10 upon reaching said notice threshold, progressively reducing an image density of an image formed by said imaging apparatus based on a print mode said imaging apparatus was operating in when said notice threshold was reached.

11. The imaging apparatus of claim 10, said control system being configured to perform the step of selecting a number of print swaths, from a plurality of numbers of print swaths associated with said plurality of print modes, at which a next print density of a plurality of print densities will be selected to facilitate said progressively  
5 reducing step.

12. The imaging apparatus of claim 10, wherein said event is a depletion of a usable supply of imaging substance available to said imaging apparatus.

13. The imaging apparatus of claim 10, wherein said imaging apparatus is an ink jet printer, said notice threshold is one of a plurality of thresholds, each of said plurality of thresholds having associated therewith a respective corresponding amount of ink remaining.

14. The imaging apparatus of claim 10, said control system being configured to perform the step of selecting a print density from a plurality of print densities for use in progressively reducing said image density of said image.

15. The imaging apparatus of claim 14, said control system being configured to perform the step of selecting a number of print swaths, from a plurality of numbers of print swaths associated with said plurality of print modes, at which a next print density of said plurality of print densities will be selected to facilitate said progressively reducing step.

16. The imaging apparatus of claim 15, wherein each number of print swaths of said plurality of print swaths increases with an increase of printing resolution of said plurality of print modes.

17. The imaging apparatus of claim 15, wherein a number of print swaths for a first print mode having a first print resolution is less than a number of print swaths for a second printing mode having a second print resolution higher than said first print resolution.

18. The imaging apparatus of claim 10, wherein said step of progressively reducing an image density is achieved relatively uniformly for each of a first print mode and a second print mode.

19. An ink jet printer having a plurality of print modes selectable by a user, comprising:

a carrier for carrying a printhead, said printhead being connected in fluid communication with a reservoir, said reservoir containing a supply of ink;

5           a memory that stores a notice threshold associated with a usable amount of ink  
in said reservoir having been depleted; and  
          a control system coupled to said printhead and coupled to said memory, said  
control system being configured to perform the steps of:  
          determining whether said notice threshold has been reached; and  
10          upon reaching said notice threshold, progressively reducing an image density  
of an image formed by said ink jet printer based on a print mode said ink jet printer  
was operating in when said notice threshold was reached.

20. The ink jet printer of claim 19, said control system being configured to  
perform the step of selecting a number of print swaths, from a plurality of numbers of  
print swaths associated with said plurality of print modes, at which a next print  
density of a plurality of print densities will be selected to facilitate said progressively  
5   reducing step.

21. A method of informing a user of an imaging apparatus of an event, said  
method comprising the steps of:  
          defining a notice threshold that is associated with said event;  
          determining whether said notice threshold has been reached; and  
5          upon reaching said notice threshold, progressively reduce an image density of  
an image formed by said imaging apparatus based on reaching a next fade area of a  
plurality of fade areas for a print medium.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of defining a  
plurality of print densities, and assigning a respective print density of said plurality of  
print densities to each of said plurality of fade areas, wherein said plurality of print  
densities decrease in order from a first fade area to a last fade area of said plurality of  
5   fade areas.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said first fade area is located at a  
position corresponding to a next print swath to be printed after said notice threshold  
has been reached.